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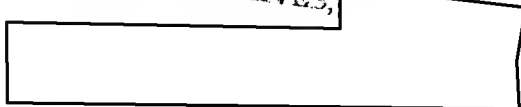


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USSR: [Premier Kosygin indicated to the British that Moscow is not interested in negotiating an agreement on mutual force reductions in Europe at this time.]

[According to a Soviet Embassy official in London, this was the import of the position taken by Kosygin when the question was raised by the British during their recent talks. Kosygin told Prime Minister Wilson that settlement of Germany's frontiers must precede "agreed troop withdrawals." The diplomat attributed this new Soviet precondition to pressures within the USSR and from Hanoi against any step which might facilitate a further US buildup in Vietnam, using American forces now in Europe. He added that Moscow was not worried about inevitable Chinese charges of Soviet-US collusion, but that Hanoi's position was important.]

[The Russians know that settlement of the contentious issue of the Oder-Neisse boundary is unacceptable to the West as a prerequisite to negotiated reductions. They clearly adopted the position in order to cut off discussion when the subject was raised by the British. There was no discussion of the possibility of unilateral withdrawals.]

[Kosygin's cool response may also have stemmed from Moscow's belief that the West soon is going to reduce forces in West Germany anyway, obviating any need for the Soviets to be forthcoming on the question.]

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Indonesia: General Suharto's statements yesterday appear intended to prepare the public for congressional action against Sukarno early next month.

Suharto's broadcast to the nation called for the acceptance of constitutional processes and obedience to "all decisions which will be taken" by Congress, Indonesia's highest state institution.

In a separate address to officers of the four armed services, Suharto stated that Sukarno's transfer of executive power was a "factor in paving the way toward the over-all settlement of the conflict" during the forthcoming congressional session. This formulation and the considerable pressures for Sukarno's complete political demise point to action by Congress.

This action may not go beyond removing Sukarno from the presidency. Suharto, in his speech to the officers, added that the congressional guideline should be "justice" both for Sukarno and for those who confront him. Sukarno apparently agreed to go along with the present scenario in return for a promise to limit the action against him. His behavior in the next few weeks may determine whether Congress takes the final step of demanding his trial for involvement in the 1965 coup attempt.

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NOTE

Argentina: [Leaders of the larger of Argentina's two railroad workers' unions plan to go ahead with a strike and demonstrations today despite a government ban on such activity. The Ongania regime withdrew the union's legal status on 22 February and probably will deal firmly with any demonstrators. The General Confederation of Labor, which called off scheduled street demonstrations earlier this week in the face of government pressure, may be reluctant to support the railroad workers at this time.]

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